

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 552

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

RUFHRO /AMEMBASSY ROME 1183

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 00667

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR DA US

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH DANISH PRIME MINISTER

REF: COPENHAGEN 0162 AND 0645

1. I MET WITH ANKER JORGENSEN ON MARCH 6 FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE HE HAS AGAIN BECOME PRIME MINISTER. WE RECALLED THAT WE HAD BEEN ASSOCIATED FOR SEVERAL MONTHS BEFORE HE WAS SUCCEEDED BY HARTLING IN LATE 1973.

A. DANISH-US RELATIONS: JORGENSEN SAID HE WAS

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VERY GLAD THAT I HAD CALLED SINCE HE WANTED TO TELL ME THAT

HIS GOVT WOULD MAINTAIN THE TRADITIONAL FRIENDLY ATTITUDE OF DENMARK TOWARD THE US IN FACT HE THOUGHT THE SAME ATTITUDE SHOULD PREVAIL BETWEEN EUROPE AND THE US. HE STATED THAT WHILE WE ARE "QUITE AGREED" ON THE MAIN ELEMENTS OF FOREIGN POLICY THERE CAN SOMETIMES BE A "LITTLE DIFFERENCES" I ASKED WHETHER HE THOUGHT THE COMMUNISTS WERE GAINING GROUND IN DENMARK IN VIEW OF THE PRESENT UNSETTLED LABOR SITUATION. JORGENSEN WHO CAME TO THE PRIME MINISTERSHIP FROM THE TRADE UNIONS. SAID THAT HE THOUGHT THE COMMUNISTS WERE NOW RELATIVELY WEAK IN DENMARK I REMARKED THAT THOMAS NIELSEN THE CHAIRMAN OF THE DANISH TRADE FEDERATION IS OUTSPOKENLY ANTI-COMMUNISTS AND JORGENSEN SAID HE AGREED THAT NIELSEN IN THIS REGARD. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE HAD READ THE SPEECH HIS PREDECESSOR HAD MADE TO THE AMERICAN CLUB OF COPENHAGEN A FEW WEEKS AGO(COPENHAGEN 0162) AND HE AGREED ENTIRELY WITH WHAT HARTLING HAD SAID ABOUT THE NECESSITY OF CLOSE TRANS-ATLANTIC TIES: IT IS MY OPINION TOO".

B. DOMESTIC SITUATION. I NOTED THAT THE PRIME MINISTER WAS PROBABLY EXTRAORDINARILY BUSY IN TRYING TO SETTLE THE LABOR/MANAGEMENT CONFLICT(COPENHAGEN 0645) (HE HAD JUST LEFT A MEETING WITH THE OTHER PARTY LEADERS ON THIS SUBJECT WHEN HE CAME TO MEET ME) JORGENSEN SAID THAT HE WAS QUITE SURE HE COULD GET A MAJORITY IN THE PARLIAMENT MARCH 7 FOR A LAW WHICH HIS GOVT WOULD INTRODUCE FOR THE PURPOSE OF SETTLEING THE CONFLICT FOR TWO YEARS. THIS WILL PROBABLY MEAN SOME UNPREDECEDENTED WEEKEND WORK FOR THE PARLIAMENT AS THE ISSUE IS URGENT. THE NEXT PROBLEM IS THAT THE BUDGET HAS TO BE PASSED BY APRIL 1. THE PRIME MINISTER ADMITTED THAT THERE WERE STILL "SOME DIFFERENCES" AMONG THE PARTIES WHICH WILL HAVE TO BE ironed out BEFORE THE BUDGET CAN BE AGREED. HE ADDED THAT WHAT DENMARK NEEDS MOST OF ALL IS MORE POLITICAL STABILITY. (COMMENT I PRESUME HE MEANT UNDER SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP) I ASKED FOR HIS VIEWS ON GLISTRUP. DID HE TAKE SERIOUSLY THE INDICATIONS IN RECENT POLLS THAT GLISTRUP

AND HIS PROGRESS PARTY WOULD SURGE FORWARD TO THE SECOND CONFIDENTIAL

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POSITION IN DENMARK IN AN ELECTION NOW? THE PRIME MINISTER REPLIED THAT THERE WERE CERTAIN SIGNS OF A STRONG ADVANCE BY GLISTRUP AND HIS PROGRESS PARTY WHICH HE AGREED TO ME MOSTLY REPRESENTED A PROTEST VOTE. INTERESTINGLY HE THOUGHT THAT SOME OF GLISTRUP'S SUPPORT MIGHT BE COLLECTED FROM THE COMMUNISTS EVEN THOUGH THE BULK OF IT WAS FROM THE RIGHT.

C. EC HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING: AS NOTED ABOVE THE GOVT WILL BE INTENSELY INVOLVED THIS WEEKEND WITH THE LABOR CONTRACT ISSUE. JORGENSEN SAID THAT AS A CONSEQUENCE IT NOW APPEARS HE WILL ONLY BE ABLE TO ATTEND THE TUESDAY SESSION OF THE HEADS OF GOVT IN DUBLIN. IF ALL GOES AS HE HOPES PARLIAMENT WILL GIVE FINAL APPROVAL TO THE GOVTS LABOR WILL ON MONDAY SO AS TO PERMIT HIM TO GO. HE WANTED THE BRITISH TO STAY IN THE EC AND HE HAS IN FACT TOLD THAT TO HIS FRIENDS IN THE BRITISH LABOUR PARTY. HE HAS ALSO ADVISED THEM TO BECOME MORE ACTIVE IN REGARD TO EUROPEAN MATTERS. HIS ONLY OTHER CONTRIBUTION IN REGARD TO DUBLIN WAS THE FACT THAT HE WAS "QUITE SURE" THAT ENERGY QUESTIONS WOULD BE DISCUSSED THERE.

D. REPLACEMENT FIGHTER PLANE: I TOLD THE PRIME MINISTER THAT WE OF COURSE VERY INTERESTED IN A DECISION ON THE LIGHTWEIGHT FIGHTER AND THAT I THOUGHT THE F16 WAS A BETTER PLANE THAN THE OTHER COMPETITORS AND THAT THE NATO ASPECT SHOULD WEIGH HEAVILY IN THE DECISION. WE WERE CONVINCED THAT A SUCCESSFUL POLICY OF DETENTE CAN ONLY BE PURSUED IF ONE IS WELL ARMED. I ASKED WHEN HE THOUGHT THE DANISH GOVT WOULD MAKE A DECISION ABOUT THE AIRPLANE. JORGENSEN RESPONDED RATHER VAGUELY THAT HE THOUGHT IT WOULD TAKE QUITE A LONG TIME AND THAT HE WOULD NOT WANT TO VENTURE A GUESS NOW. HE SAID HE HAD HEARD THAT THERE WERE "DOUBTS" IN OTHER COUNTRIES WHETHER A REPLACEMENT FIGHTER PLANS WAS EVEN NECESSARY. I REPEATED THAT WE CAN BEST DEAL WITH THE RUSSIANS FROM A POSITION OF STRENGTH AND THAT AIR POWER IS A VERY IMPORTANT COMPONENT OF THAT STRENGTH.

E. MIDDLE EAST: THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE WANTED ME TO KNOW THAT HE AND HIS GOVT CONSIDERED THAT CONFIDENTIAL

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SECRETARY KISSINGER WAS DOING A "GOOD JOB" IN THE MIDDLE EAST. THEY WISH HIM WELL IN HIS PRESENT EFFORTS.

F. COMMENT: IN THIS DISCUSSION I FOUND JORGENSEN MUCH MORE REASONABLE THAN I HAD BEFORE. ALTHOUGH HE WAS OBVIOUSLY UNDER GREAT PRESSURE BECAUSE OF THE LABOR SITUATION AND HAD HAD LITTLE TIME TO BE BRIEFED ON MANY SUBJECTS HE LISTENED CAREFULLY TO MY PRESENTATION AND MADE A NUMBER OF APT COMMENTS. MY FEELING IS THAT HE WILL BE EASIER TO DEAL WITH THAN IN HIS FIRST ADMINISTRATION, NOT LEAST BECAUSE VIETNAM IS NOT LONGER CLOUDING OUR RELATIONSHIP.
CROWE

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